

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM MAYNES

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT:CODEL ROSTENKOWSKI

1. CODEL ARRIVING GENEVA MARCH 23 INCLUDES CONGRESSMAN SILVIO O. CONTE (R, MASS.), MINORITY MEMBER HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS. IN MY TESTIMONY MARCH 16 BEFORE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE (CONGRESSMAN LONG, CHAIRMAN), MR. CONTE INDICATED RECENT NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON HIGH UN SALARY LEVELS SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED HIS SUPPORT OF US CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS. REQUEST YOU MAKE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS UN SALARY CONCERNS WITH MR. CONTE DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- SUMMARY: PROGRESS IN MOVING MID-LEVEL UN SALARIES (71 OF UN PROFESSIONAL STAFF) TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS REPRESENTS ONE OF MAJOR US POLICY SUCCESSES IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UN ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL AREA. MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE FIELD OF HIGH-LEVEL SALARIES (10 OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF) AND THE PROCESS IS UNDER WAY. OBVIOUSLY, THE POTENTIALS FOR SAVINGS WERE MUCH GREATER AT THE MID-LEVELS--THEIR SALARY TOTALS ARE MORE THAN THREE TIMES THE HIGH-LEVEL TOTALS.

-- SINCE 1974, THE US POSITION IN THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN THAT UN SALARIES WERE TOO HIGH BY ANY REASONABLE STANDARD AND MUST BE LOWERED.

-- THE LAST INCREASE IN THE BASIC UN SALARY RATE (WHICH THE UNITED STATES OPPOSED) TOOK EFFECT OVER THREE YEARS AGO (JANUARY 1, 1975).

-- THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FIRST COMMENCED OPERATIONS IN 1975; SUBSEQUENTLY, IT HAS EXERCISED A RATIONALIZING AND MODERATING INFLUENCE ON SALARY LEVELS.

-- PROFESSIONAL UN SALARY LEVELS HAVE MOVED TO A MORE ACCEPTABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH US CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES:

FROM 38 TO 57 PERCENT IN EARLY 1976
TO 17 TO 26 PERCENT ABOVE IN LATE 1976
TO 7 TO 13 PERCENT ABOVE IN LATE 1977
(15 PERCENT IS CONSIDERED TO BE A FAIR DIFFERENTIAL FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKING OUTSIDE THEIR HOME COUNTRY).

-- GENERAL SERVICE SALARY LEVELS IN GENEVA WERE REVIEWED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN 1977 AND FOUND TO BE 17 PERCENT OVER THE BEST PREVAILING LOCAL RATES; AS A RESULT THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL IMPLEMENTED A REDUCED SALARY SCALE (TEMPORARILY MITIGATED BY A PERSONAL TRANSITION ALLOWANCE) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1978.

-- NO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED THUS FAR IN MODERATING LEADERSHIP SALARIES; QUESTION IS PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND US VIEWS THAT LEVELS ARE EXCESSIVE HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO KEY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

2. IMPORTANT YOU EMPHASIZE 1) US CONSIDERS LEADERSHIP SALARIES TOO HIGH AND IS WORKING THROUGH ICSC TO REDUCE AND 2) ACTION OF ICSC ON GENEVA SALARY ISSUE. VANCE

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